# "Swimming with Sharks" Developing Relationships with Production Builders

Phoenix, Arizona

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Residential Energy Efficiency and Building Science Consultants





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#### Outline

- Company History
- Growing Your Relationships with Production Builders
- A Full Service Company



## **Company History**

- Fall 1995 EPA Grant to ASU Del E. Webb School of Construction
- Fall 1998 to Spring 1999 Transition management of Energy Star from public to private sector with refundable grant from Southwest Gas
- <u>March 1999</u> Started D.R. Wastchak, LLC (3 employees, 2 clients, doing just Energy Star testing)
- <u>2002</u> By year-end:
  - Seventeen (17) Employees
  - 24 builder clients
  - 120+ subdivisions
  - 6,138 homes labeled as Energy Star in 2002



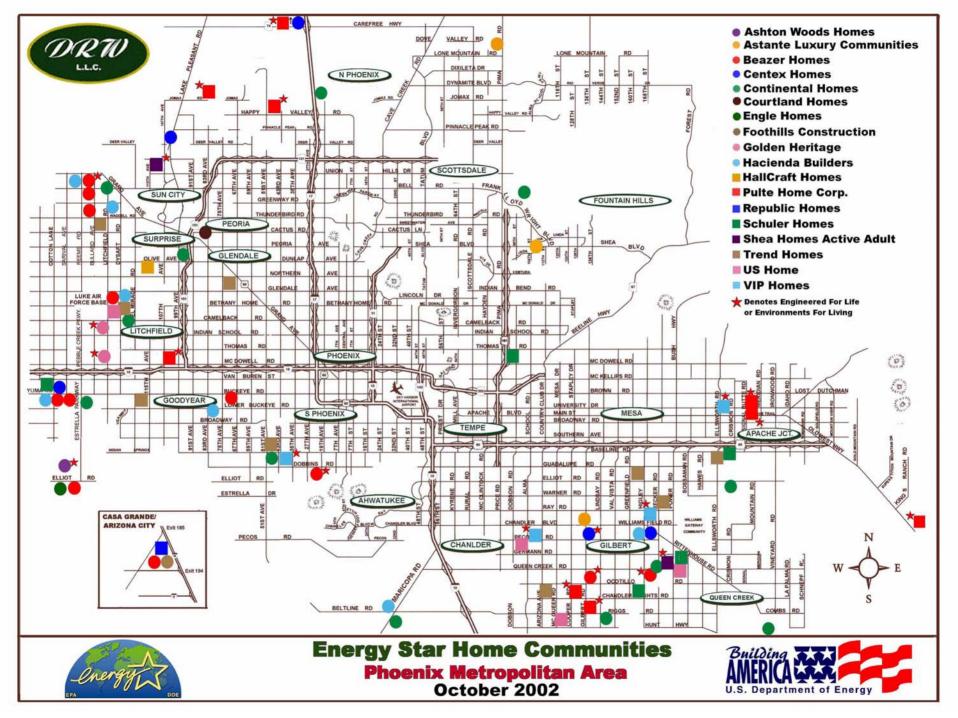
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### Growing Your Relationships with Production Builders

- 1. Identify the "Bell Cows"
- 2. Relationships: build and nurture a network

(i.e. builders, trades, realtors, etc.)

- **3. Leverage other programs** (EFL, Living, Green Building program, utility programs)
- 4. Builder presentation which effectively explains <u>and</u> sells program(s)
- 5. Make participation in energy programs as "painless as possible"
  (appreciation for home building "realities", i.e. cost, schedule, sales process, competition)
- 6. Be a "full service" company fill the need
- 7. Patience and persistence in recruiting builders <u>and</u> allies
- 8. **Market conversion** (from marketing edge to industry standard)





## **A Full Service Company**

- **1.** Consulting on plan evaluations, HERS analysis
- 2. Field training for trade contractors
- **3. Training for builder sales personnel** (sales tools)
- 4. Coordination/production of point of sale and marketing materials
- **5.** Testing and inspections during construction for quality control
- 6. Documentation and assistance with Energy Efficient Mortgages (EEM's)
- 7. **Marketing programs** (i.e. "Parade" and "Showcase" of Homes, Co-operative advertising campaign)
- 8. Diagnostic Investigations at problem homes

(for builder warranty and service departments)





